



UTAH
AGRICULTURAL
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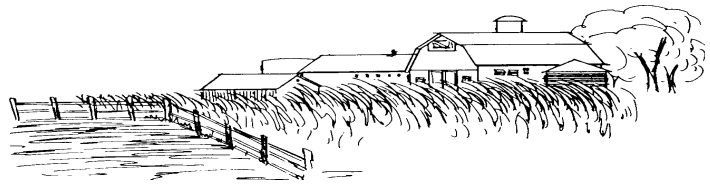
News Release

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Agricultural Prices

Utah: Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-April 2004, compared with March 2004, were up for barley, alfalfa hay, and other hay, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lamb price for March 2004 was \$104.00 per cwt, up \$11.00 from April 2003. The March 2004 sheep price, at \$31.00 was \$3.00 above April 2003.

Barley, at \$2.66 per bushel, was up 7 cents from the previous month's price but 9 cents below last year. Baled alfalfa hay was \$81.00 per ton, up \$6.00 from last month but \$12.00 below last year. Other hay, at \$70.00 per ton, was \$8.00 higher than last month but \$6.00 lower than April 2003.

United States: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April at 124, based on 1990-92=100, is 3 points (2.5 percent) above the March Index. This is the highest index level since records began. The Livestock Products Index increased 4 points (3.3 percent) from March while the All Crops Index increased 2 points (1.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for milk, cattle, corn, and lettuce. Lower prices were received for eggs, strawberries, hogs, and tobacco. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of cattle, milk, strawberries, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and hogs. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 23 points (23 percent) from April 2003.

The Food Commodities Index increased 3 points (2.5 percent) from last month to 125. The index stands 26 points (26 percent) above April 2003.